



## **FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK MINUTES**

DECEMBER 8, 2020 at 7pm - ONLINE MEETING

Zoom link to join is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88963170930>

PRESENT: June, Barry, Dave, Elisse, Kim, Ken, Daniel, Shana, Fatmata, Joe, Shane, and Rachael. Rob had connection issues; Chris was absent.

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Minutes from November 11, 2020 were approved via Email
- 3) Updates from Pete
  - a. Welcome Daniel Koroma as new Member
  - b. Congratulations to Rachael for being elected Chair of the East County Citizens Advisory Board.
  - c. Congratulations letters were sent to Council Members on Hucker and Albornoz on their new titles of Council President and Vice President.
  - d. White Oak Science Gateway Advisory Committee – CEX staff has been talking with the County Attorney on the best way to initiate this new group. May be done by resolution or by a bill. Decided a bill is the best avenue to take. Bill needs to be drafted and then placed on the County Council's agenda most likely in January or February 2021.
  - e. LATIP for Hillandale study is complete. It has been posted on the County's website here: [https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/dev\\_review/ump.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/dev_review/ump.html). While it recommends several upgrades to the MD650 and Powder Mill Road area, it does not find merit in rebuilding the MD650 southbound slip ramp.
- 4) Police Update from Lt. Cole
  - a. Meeting with local representatives was held on 12/4/20 with state delegates, Prince George's County Council, Montgomery County Council, and police representatives from both areas. This meeting was to discuss speeding, mufflers, and other traffic related concerns along the Montgomery Co and Prince George's Co line. There were discussions about legislative efforts for mufflers and other vehicle modifications. Bills will be in Annapolis this Session to address loud mufflers. Officers are showing up at the drag racing meetings. Also using speed trailers. Priority routes for speeding are MD650 and MD29.
  - b. October and November there were several violent crimes at the Enclave. Several officers have been patrolling the area. Enclave has hired security guards.
    - i. Rachael asked how many months the crime has been increasing? 8 weeks.

- c. Barry noted there are two delegates from Montgomery County on the Motor Vehicle and Traffic Committee.
  - i. Bruce noted Capt. McBain is working with the Committee on the bills.

5) Hillandale Gateway Update from Shane; and Recommendation from the Board to the Planning Board

- a. Shane began by noting he would recuse himself from the discussion after his presentation because he is on the Board and he is the developer of the project. He also recognizes he is on the FOWO because of his role as a developer and property owner in White Oak. Shane gave an overview of history and the proposed project. Partnering with the Housing Opportunities Commission with 25% affordable housing as part of the project. The project will feature two residential buildings (155 units age restricted and 308 units non-age restricted) and three freestanding commercial buildings. Duffie is building above code minimum standards including applying for targeting Zero Net Energy, Energy Star, Passive House, and LEED certifications. There are dozens of members of a team working on the project. Permitting to begin is early 2021 and hope to break ground in late 2021. Extensive electric charging capability is being programmed. There is a large open green space in the front between the coffee shop and the main complex. Both residential buildings will be all electric and they are working closely with Pepco. Solar panels on the top of the parking garage and specially designed "eyebrows" and optimized "glazing" will help mitigate too much heat from the sun on the South side of the site. The project is immediately adjacent to Ride On, Metro Bus, and the coming BRT stations. Will be on the Planning Board's agenda December 17th.
  - i. Questions: Why is the term "age restricted used". It is the official term and its age restricted by 55 and older. It will be barrier free along the Festival Street. Not confusing accessibility with age restricted. Rent levels – affordable will be according to required standards (e.g. MPDU); "market rate" units will command what the market allows.
  - ii. Ken asked about the traffic at the area. The LATIP report was posted today and the slip ramp was key to traffic mitigation in Shane's opinion.
- b. Shane signed off the meeting. Motion to support by Rachael, seconded by Ken. Shana spoke in support of the Hillandale Gateway proposal. She did expressed concern about traffic, but overall, she strongly supports. No further comments. Passes unanimously.

6) Discussion

- a. Thrive 2050 – On the agenda so the Board may take a position on the plan. Shana believes the FOWO should weigh in on Thrive 2050. Dave stated Elisse and he had a chat about the Thrive 2050 plan and believe FOWO should show support. Barry requested the plan keep bicyclist in mind. It is important White Oak and the East County have equal trail access. Dave would like the Board to send a letter with recommendations. Shane noted the deadline for Planning Board comments is on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Ken also supports walkers. Racheal believes the main point of Thrive 2050 is to adjust the equity imbalance between the East and West sides of the County. Barry will draft language. Jewru noted that email vote discussions are discouraged by the County Executive and so the Board voted collectively to approve a general letter of support.
- b. Board Member Assignments - Dave reviewed the list of assignments that Elisse and he drafted. Random discussions on the various assignments began.
  - i. Farmers' Market locations were noted with Dow Jones first and the Library second. Rachael suggested the Recreation Center as a backup.

- ii. Dave noted Fatmata's and Kim's work on the incorporation of FOWO. Kim remarked FOWO may begin accepting contributions. Dave mentioned FOWO will be a 501(C)6, so donations are not tax deductible.
- iii. June believes safety should also be a part of her committee. In passing, June spoke about how so many businesses are suffering from the Covid pandemic. Also, White Oak's reputation needs work in the New Hampshire Avenue and Lockwood area. Aesthetics and enhancement are key such as flowerpots and property maintenance.
- iv. Shana suggested FOWO send a thank you letter to the County Council for their override of the Executive's veto of the new Growth Policy (formerly the SSP), consistent with the FOWO's earlier written testimony in support of the Planning Board's recommendations. Barry was opposed.
- v. Website – Shana and Shane – Shana expressed concern about creating, but Elisse noted the point is to hire or have volunteers help with the task.

7) From the Board

- a. Daniel brought up the Farmers' Market plans and Delegate Lorig has arranged a meeting on fresh food for East County. Jewru expanded on the details. Elise, Dave, and Pete will be attending.

8) From the Public – Opportunity to Bring up a Topic Not on the Agenda

- a. Hillary Kaplan raised the issue of leaf pick-up. Groups may be hired to help with leaf collection to avoid bagging. She would like to initiate a petition to have the County get involved in the group. Jewru offered assistance and his phone number.
- b. Jewru said the County Council approved weatherization funding of \$1.25M for outdoor dining. Also, food distribution for East County in need of volunteers. The County continues to offer Covid testing and he has a list of locations. Neighborhood improvement funds are available and FOWO should investigate the grants. June asked about the moratorium for evictions ends on 12/31/20. Jewru noted he had a discussion with HHS today and he will share the information with Pete. Jewru thanked Daniel and Pete for their hard work with the business community and County grants.

9) Adjourn (8:30pm)